Sl. No.	Name of the Company	State
220.	Tuscon Exports Ltd.	West Bengal
221.	Grapco Mining Co. Ltd.	West Bengal
222.	Bacchhat Investment and Ltd.	West Bengal
223.	GR Magnets Ltd.	West Bengal
224.	Morad Properties & Project Ltd.	West Bengal
225.	Micco Corporation Ltd.	West Bengal
226.	Allied Stock Investors Ltd.	West Bengal
227.	Commitment Finance Ltd.	West Bengal
228.	Asian Vegpro Industries Ltd.	West Bengal
229.	Global finance Corpn. Ltd.	Meghalaya

Problems faced by coffee growers in Karnataka

*236. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the coffee planters in Karnataka are faced with the problem of declining coffee exports due to crash in prices globally;

(b) whether the recent notification of Central Board of Direct Taxes subjecting 25 per cent of the realization from the sale of coffee to central Income Tax has crippled them further; and

(c) whether Government would provide an exit option to the coffee growers in Karnataka, 98 per cent of whom are small farmers to opt for Agricultural Tax (AIT) which is more rational and quantitative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes Sir. Coffee is globally traded and export oriented commodity and its prices are decided at New York Exchange and London Exchange for Arabica and Robusta respectively. In recent times the global coffee production has outstripped consumption leading to mismatch between demand and supply resulting in steep fall in international coffee prices. The price fall has affected all

coffee producing countries including India. since 80% of coffee produced in the country is exported, the industry is mainly dependent on the global coffee prices. Due to low coffee prices prevailing in the international markets, there has been a slight decline in the export of coffee during 2001-02 as compared to the previous year.

(b) As the notification has been issued very recently, it is too early to assess the actual impact of the same on the small coffee growers.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Entry of ONGC in retail sector

*237. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has applied for authorisation to set up retail outlets to sell petrol and diesel in certain States;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the details of the States in which ONGC propose to set up its outlets?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) government have granted the authorisation to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for marketing transportation fuels through 600 Retail Outlets, in the first phase, primarily in three States *i.e.* Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Payment of salary to the employees of NPCC

*238. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the employees of various units of NPCC Ltd., have not been paid salary for the last several months; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to disburse the arrears of salaries?